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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, FEBRUARY 22, 2002

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

DERRICK AND KAREN DOUGLAS,

COMPLAINANTS

v.

CASE NO. PUE010661

SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA GAS COMPANY,

RESPONDENT

FINAL ORDER

On November 26, 2001, Derrick and Karen Douglas ("Complainants") filed a formal complaint ("Complaint") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") against Southwestern Virginia Gas Company ("Company"). The Complainants requested that the Commission initiate an investigation against the Company into certain allegations of an excessive deposit requirement and improper termination of natural gas service.

By Preliminary Order entered on December 14, 2001, the Commission docketed this case, assigned the matter to a Hearing Examiner, and ordered the Company to file an Answer to the allegations made in the Complaint. Pursuant to the Preliminary Order, on December 20, 2001, the Company filed an Answer wherein it denied the allegations in the Complaint. By Hearing Examiner's Ruling entered on December 27, 2001, a hearing was scheduled for January 24, 2002, in the Council Chambers, City of

Martinsville, Virginia. Additionally, a procedural schedule for the pre-filing of testimony and exhibits by the parties was established.

On January 16, 2002, the Company, by counsel, filed a Motion to Extend Hearing Date and for Change of Hearing Location. The Company requested in its Motion that the hearing date be extended from January 24, 2002, to February 7, 2002, so the parties might have sufficient time to complete settlement discussions and conclude the matter. In the event that the parties could not settle the matter, the Company requested that the Hearing Examiner reconsider his decision to conduct the hearing in Martinsville, Virginia.

By Hearing Examiner's Ruling entered on January 17, 2002, the January 24, 2002, the hearing date was rescheduled for February 7, 2002. The Hearing Examiner noted in the January 17, 2002, Ruling that the Complainants were required to file with the Clerk of the Commission on or before January 15, 2002, any testimony and exhibits they intended to present at the hearing, and that the Complainants had failed to make the required filing. In light of the Complainants' failure to diligently pursue their case, and for judicial economy, the Hearing Examiner scheduled the hearing in the Commission's Second Floor Courtroom in Richmond, Virginia.

On January 22, the Company filed a Motion to Order Settlement Terms and to Dismiss.

By correspondence filed with the Commission on January 24, 2002, the Complainants advised the Commission's Staff that they had accepted the Company's offer to settle the matter and were agreeing to withdraw their Complaint against the Company.

The Hearing Examiner issued a Report on January 30, 2002, finding the settlement entered between the Complainants and the Company reasonably resolved the Complaint.

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of the foregoing, is of the opinion and finds that this case should be dismissed.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) The recommendations in the January 30, 2002, Report of Michael D. Thomas, Hearing Examiner, are adopted in full.

(2) This matter is dismissed and, there being nothing further to come before the Commission, the papers herein are passed to the file for ended causes.